

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are all the claims pending in the application.

1. Formalities

Applicants thank the Examiner for initialing the references listed on form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 9, 2002.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for foreign priority submitted on February 20, 2001, and confirm that the certified copy of the priority document has been received in the next Office Action.

2. Specification

Applicants have corrected a minor error in the specification to make it consistent with Figure 5. No new matter has been added.

3. Drawings

Applicants have corrected some minor errors in Figure 5. Specifically, S12 now shows "DOMAIN 2" instead of "DOMAIN 1", S14 now shows "OF FRAME" instead of "IN FRAME" and S15 now shows "FRAME" instead of "FRAM." These corrections make Figure 5 consistent with the specification. See, for example, page 7, last two paragraphs.

4. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kosaka et al. (EP 0427485 A2) ["Kosaka"]. Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a method for synthesizing speech comprising "summing squares of signal levels of an n-th frame in said frequency signal to obtain a frame power correction value for the n-th frame." The Examiner cites long passages of Kosaka but does not specify which elements

in Kosaka allegedly correspond to the claimed combination. Applicants submit that this feature is not disclosed in Kosaka.

In addition, Kosaka discloses that there is only one frame with a predetermined time length which is sampled for every vowel. The average power of the frame for the vowel is determined by Mel Cepstrum coefficients (see page 6, lines 11-21 and Fig. 3).

As set forth in claim 1, a phoneme is divided into N frames with each frame having a predetermined length. The average power of the frames is determined by summing squares of speech samples in the frame. Therefore, there are at least three clear differences between the disclosure in Kosaka and the claimed combination:

- 1) In the claimed combination, coefficient calculations are done on a “phoneme”, whereas, in Kosaka, calculations are done on a vowel;
- 2) The claimed “phoneme” is divided into “N frames”, whereas, in Kosaka, a vowel is sampled as one frame; and
- 3) The claimed “frame power value” is calculated by “summing squares of speech samples”, whereas, in Kosaka, the frame power is calculated by using Mel Cepstrum coefficients.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable. Also, because claims 2 and 4 depend on claim 1, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

5. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosaka. Applicants traverse the rejection.

Because claim 3 depends on claim 1, Applicants submit that it is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

6. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants are filing a petition (with fee) for one month of extension time herewith, making this response due on or before April 16, 2004. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

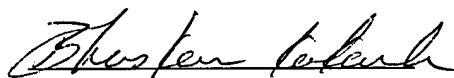
Respectfully submitted,

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